



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/768,293	01/25/2001	Yatin R. Acharya	F0682	3654

26615 7590 05/06/2004

HARRITY & SNYDER, LLP
11240 WAPLES MILL ROAD
SUITE 300
FAIRFAX, VA 22030

EXAMINER

SALAD, ABDULLAHI ELM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2157

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2004

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/768,293

Applicant(s)

ACHARYA, YATIN R.

Examiner

Salad E Abdullahi

Art Unit

2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been reviewed. Original claims 1-18 are pending. The rejection cited stated below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 7 recites the limitation "the ports" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-6, 8-11, 14-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hendel et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,591,303[hereinafter Hendel]. As to claim 1, Hendel discloses a method for establishing a trunk (630) between first (610) and second network devices (620), comprising:

- monitoring (i.e., inspecting or checking) via the first network device (i.e., the switch 620 as illustrated in fig. 6b) at least one of a source address and destination address in packets destined for or received from the

Art Unit: 2157

second network device (i.e., the server 610 as illustrated in fig. 6b) (see figs. 6a-6d and col. 6, lines 42-66, where the end-node such as switch 620 inspects the header of each data packet, the header includes sources and destination addresses of the data packets);

- determining based on the monitoring, whether a communication pattern exists (i.e., determining a pattern at the time the first packet with the source address is seen and the time after the source address goes unseen for a period of time) [see col. 6, line 66 to col. 7, lines 5]; and
- automatically establishing the trunk between the first network device and second network device when the communication pattern is determined to exist (i.e., dynamically mapping or selecting based on determined source address to one of the trunk 630 having two more interfaces) [see fig. 6b and col. 6, lines 21-29 and line 60 to col. 7, line 5].

As to claim 2, Hendel discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the determining whether a communication pattern exists includes:

detecting a predetermined number of packets having identical source or destination addresses (i.e., same source address)[see col. 7, lines 2-5].

As to claim 3, Hendel discloses the method of claim 2 wherein the detecting occurs over a predetermined period of time [see col. 7, lines 2-5].

Art Unit: 2157

As to claim 4, Hendel discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the first network device includes a multi-port switch (620) and the second network device includes a server (610) [see fig. 6b and col. 5, lines 24-26].

As to claim 5, Hendel discloses the method of claim 1 wherein automatically establishing the trunk includes:
automatically establishing two or more trunks between the first network device and second network device [see fig. 6a and col. 5, lines 59 to col. 6, line 1].

As to claim 6, Hendel discloses the method of claim 1 wherein automatically establishing the trunk includes:
assigning at least two ports on the first network device to the trunk [see fig. 6a and 6c and col. 5, lines 47-49 and lines 59-66].

As per claim 8, Hendel discloses a system for establishing at least one trunk (trunked segments 631-633) between a first network device (switch 620) and a second network device (server 610), comprising:

- means for monitoring (i.e., inspecting or checking) at least one of traffic (i.e., stream of data packets) to the second network device (server 610) and traffic from the second network device [see fig. 6b and col. 6, lines 42-66, where stream of data packets to and from server 610 to another is inspected];

Art Unit: 2157

- means for determining, based on the monitoring, if a communication pattern (i.e., determining a pattern at the time the first packet with the source address is seen and the time after the source address goes unseen for a period of time) [see col. 6, line 66 to col. 7, lines 5]; and
- means for automatically establishing the at least one trunk between the first network device and the second network device when a communication pattern is determined to exist (i.e., dynamically mapping or selecting based on determined source address to one of the trunk 630 having two more interfaces) [see fig. 6b and col. 6, lines 21-29 and line 60 to col. 7, line 5].

As per claim 9, Hendel discloses the system of claim 8 wherein the means for determining if a communication pattern exists includes:

means for detecting a predetermined number of packets having identical source or destination addresses [see col. 7, lines 2-5].

As per claim 10, Hendel discloses the system of claim 8 wherein the first network device includes a multi-port switch and the second network device includes a server (610) [see fig. 6b and col. 5, lines 24-26].

As per claim 11, Hendel discloses the system of claim 8 wherein the means for automatically establishing the at least one trunk comprises:

means for associating two or more ports of the first network device with each of

Art Unit: 2157

the at least one trunk [see fig. 6a and 6c and col. 5, lines 47-49 and lines 59-66].

As per claim 14, Hendel discloses a network device (switch 620) comprising:

- a receiver (network interface 403) configured to receive packets having a source address and a destination address(see col. 6, lines 42-66, where the header of received packets is checked, the header includes source address and destination address); and
- an internal rules checker configured to monitor the received source and destination addresses in the received packets (i.e., cache used by an end-node such as switch 620 to keep track of recently source destination addresses of packets) [see col. 6, lines 42-59, where stream of data packets from one end-node to another end-node is inspected],
determine whether a communication pattern exists over a predetermined period of time (i.e., at the time the first packet with the source address is seen and the time after the source address goes unseen for a period of time) [see col. 6, line 66 to col. 7, lines 5], and establish one or more trunks (i.e., trunks 631-633) between the network device (switch 620) and at least one other network device (server 610) in response to determining that a communication pattern exists [see fig. 6b col. 6, lines 21-29 and lines 59-66].

Art Unit: 2157

As to claim 15, Hendel discloses the network device of claim 14 wherein, when determining whether a communication pattern exists, the internal rules checker is configured to:

detect a predetermined number of packets having identical source or destination addresses over the predetermined period of time [see col. 7, lines 2-5].

As to claim 17, Hendel discloses the network device of claim 14 wherein, when establishing the one or more trunks, the internal rules checker is configured to: assign at least two ports on the network device to each trunk [see fig. 6a and 6c and col. 5, lines 47-49 and lines 59-66].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 7, 13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendel as applied to claims 1, 8 and 14 discussed above, and further in view of Friedman et al., U.S. patent No. 5,49,788[hereinafter Friedman]. As per claim 7, Hendel discloses substantial features of the claimed invention as discussed above with respect to claim 1, including establishing or selecting a trunk between a first network device and second network device when the

Art Unit: 2157

communication pattern (i.e., receiving number of packets with same source or destination address for certain period of time), and wherein the trunk consist two or more interfaces depending on the bandwidth requirement [see col. 59-67 and col. 7, lines 2-5].

Hendel, is silent regarding:

deactivating the trunk when the communication pattern is determined to no longer exist and reassigning the ports to new trunks if a is new pattern is determined.

Friedman, in analogous art discloses method that permits multipoint trunking among plurality of devices connected by trunking comprising at least two physical links. In addition, Friedman teaches a trunking technique and apparatus that permit the bandwidth of the trunk to be increased in increments through the addition of links to the trunk or deactivating the trunk depending on the bandwidth requirement and reassigning the ports [see col. 10, lines 39-47]. Furthermore, Hendel teaches creating parallel trunking of interfaces to increase transfer bandwidth between network devices, wherein the number of interfaces that are implemented may be any number greater than two depending on the bandwidth requirement . Hence, one having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized by creating new trunks depending on the bandwidth requirement Hendel's system deactivates the trunk when the communication pattern is determined to no longer exist and reassigning the ports to new trunks if a is new pattern is determined. Additionally, deactivating the trunk and reassigning ports to a new trunk would be beneficial to Hendel's system in order to accommodate

Art Unit: 2157

the bandwidth requirement of more network devices. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to deactivate the trunk when the communication pattern is determined to no longer exist and reassigns ports to new trunks if a new pattern is determined as taught by Friedman in order to maximize the bandwidth of the trunk and to assure that the maximum realizable bandwidth is available to the greatest number of connected network devices [see col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line 5].

As per claim 13, Hendel discloses substantial features of the claimed invention as discussed above with respect to claim 8, including establishing or selecting a trunk between a first network device and second network device when the communication pattern (i.e., receiving number of packets with same source or destination address for certain period of time), and wherein the trunk consists of two or more interfaces depending on the bandwidth requirement (see col. 59-67 and col. 7, lines 2-5).

Hendel, is silent regarding:

means for deactivating the at least one trunk when the communication pattern is determined to no longer exist.

Friedman, in analogous art discloses method that permits multipoint trunking among plurality of devices connected by trunking comprising at least two physical links. In addition, Friedman teaches trunking technique and apparatus that permit the bandwidth of the trunk to be increased in increments through the addition of links to the trunk or deactivating the trunk depending on the bandwidth

Art Unit: 2157

requirement and reassigning the port [see col. 10, lines 39-47]. Furthermore, Hendel teaches creating parallel trunking of interfaces to increase transfer bandwidth between network devices, wherein the number of interfaces that are implemented may be any number greater than two depending on the bandwidth requirement. Hence, one having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized by creating new trunks depending on the bandwidth requirement Hendel's system deactivates the trunk when the communication pattern is determined to no longer exist and reassigns the ports to new trunks if a new pattern is determined. Additionally, deactivating and reassigning ports to new trunk would be beneficial to Hendel's system in order to accommodate the bandwidth requirement of more network devices. Therefore, it would have been obvious to having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to deactivate the trunk when the communication pattern is determined to no longer exist as taught by Friedman in order to maximize the bandwidth of the trunk and to assure that the maximum realizable bandwidth is available to the greatest number of connected network devices [see col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line 5].

As per claim 16, Hendel discloses substantial features of the claimed invention as discussed above with respect to claim 14, including an internal rules checker (i.e., an end-node that monitors or inspects source and destination addresses of the received packets).

Hendel, is silent regarding:

Art Unit: 2157

deactivating the one or more trunks when the communication pattern is determined to no longer exist.

Friedman, in analogous art discloses method that permits multipoint trunking among plurality of devices connected by trunking comprising at least two physical links. In addition, Friedman teaches a trunking technique and apparatus that permits the bandwidth of the trunk to be increased in increments through the addition of links to the trunk or deactivating the trunk depending on the bandwidth requirement [see col. 10, lines 39-47]. Furthermore, Hendel teaches creating parallel trunking of interfaces to increase transfer bandwidth between network devices, wherein the number of interfaces that are implemented may be any number greater than two depending on the bandwidth requirement. Hence, one having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized by creating new trunks depending on the bandwidth requirement Hendel's system deactivates the trunk when the communication pattern is determined to no longer exist.

Additionally, deactivating the one or more trunks when the communication pattern is determined to no longer exist would be beneficial to Hendel's system in order to accommodate the bandwidth requirement of more network devices.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to deactivate the one or more trunks when the communication pattern is determined to no longer exist as taught by Friedman in order to maximize the bandwidth of the trunk and to assure that the maximum realizable bandwidth is available to the greatest number of connected network devices [see col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line5].

Art Unit: 2157

8. Claims 12 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendel as applied to claims 11 and 14 discussed above, and further in view of Annaamalai et al., U.S. patent No. 6,445,715[hereinafter Annaamalai].

As per claim 12, Hendel discloses substantial features of the claimed invention as discussed above with respect to claim 11, means for associating two or more ports of the first network device with each of at least one trunk [see fig. 6a and 6c and col. 5, lines 47-49 and lines 59-66].

Hendel is silent regarding:

means for associating one or more trunk control bits with each port, the trunk control bits indicating status of a port.

Annaamalai, discloses a system for dynamic control or administration of status of trunks using trunk operational status (TOS) information having a format, wherein the TOS field is 3-bit field whose contents specify the status mode of a port [see col. 8, lines 15-23]. Furthermore, associating one or more trunk control bits to indicate the status of trunk ports would be advantageous to Hendel's system in order to indicate present operational trunk status of the port. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to associate one or more trunk control bits with each port, where the trunk control bits indicate the status of the port, because it is desirable to specify current operational trunk status of the port to show whether a port is in use, failed or active in order to respond port initiation request.

Art Unit: 2157

As per claim 18, Hendel discloses substantial feature of the claimed as discussed above with respect to claim 14, including at least one register configured to store trunking information (a cache or look up table for storing information about each interface) [see col. 6, lines 42-59] wherein, when establishing the one or more trunks the internal rules checker (the end-node that inspects the data packet) selects one or more trunks based on communication pattern.

Hendel is silent regarding:

the internal rules checker sets at least one bit in the at least one register.

Annaamalai, discloses a system for dynamic control or administration of status of trunks using trunk operational status (TOS) information having a format 420, wherein the TOS field is 3-bit field whose contents specify the status mode of a port (see fig.3 col. 6, lines 47-55 and col. 8, lines 15-23). Furthermore, associating one or more trunk control bits to indicate the status of trunk ports would be advantageous to Hendel's system in order to indicate present operational trunk status of the port. Therefore, it would have been an obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to set at least one bit in the at least one register, because it is desirable to specify current operational trunk status of the port to show whether a port is in use, failed or active in order to respond port initiation request.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 2157

a) Lakhani et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,721,322. Provides a system for establishing dynamic high usage trunk groups for dynamically provisioning high usage trunks between end nodes.

b) Kadambi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,104,696. Provides a method for sending packets between ports on trunked network switches.

c) Jennings et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,463,479. Provides an apparatus for trunking network communications between network devices.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Salad E Abdullahi whose telephone number is 703-308-8441. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 703-305-4792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 09/768,293

Page 15

Art Unit: 2157

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Box AF

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to: (703) (872-9306)



Abdullahi Salad

Examiner AU 2157

4/30/2004